

Detective Neal is happily married to Anthony Neal (whom she met on 09/11/2001), and has a 5 year old son Jaylen. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Detective Izora Neal for her pursuit of excellence in the field of law enforcement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 842 I voted "no" but intended to vote "yes".

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST ANNUAL NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to offer my support of the first ever National Rural Health Day.

My district is home to five rural hospitals, Deckerville Community Hospital, Harbor Beach Community Hospital, Marlette Community Hospital, Scheurer Hospital and McKenzie Memorial Hospital.

Thanks to these hospitals, my constituents, as well as 62 million Americans living in small towns and rural communities across the United States, have greater access to medical services and comprehensive care near the communities where they live.

During my time in Congress, I have been proud to support rural hospitals in my district. I took a leading role in helping to complete the Thumb Rural Health Network's wireless communications system. This infrastructure links all eight of the rural hospitals serving Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties, in order to create greater communication about patient care between this region's hospitals and allow for more medical consultation from specialists from other Michigan facilities via remote technology.

I believe that it is critically important for all Michigan residents to have access to quality health care services, and I know that each rural hospital is continually looking for innovative and resourceful ways to reach this goal despite geographical obstacles.

In my district, rural hospitals account for nearly 1,000 jobs. In a time of economic uncertainty and rising unemployment that has hurt Michigan businesses and families, I am encouraged by the many benefits rural hospitals bring to the communities they serve.

I would like to praise rural hospitals on National Rural Health Day and extend my thanks for the work they do for our communities in my district, as well as across the Nation.

IN TRIBUTE TO JOHN P. AMERSPEK

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, last week, our Nation paused to mark Veterans Day. America's soldiers, sailors, Marines and Airmen and Airwomen have always responded to the call of duty in defense of our great nation. These dedicated members of our community deserve our endless thanks, not only on Veterans Day, but at every single opportunity that we can show them our gratitude.

Therefore, my colleagues, it is quite fitting that I call to your attention the dedicated service of one member of the "Greatest Generation." John P. Amerspek of Succasunna, New Jersey, will be celebrating the 90th anniversary of his birth this week and I invite you to join his family and friends in thanking this great American for his many contributions.

Like so many of his generation, John Amerspek knew the necessity of accepting one's responsibilities and was willing to make sacrifices for his country. As troops of the World War II era were known to say: "if the country is good enough to live in, it's good enough to fight for."

Thus, John found himself in the United States Army's 3rd Division, far from home, fighting one of the most controversial, yet least publicized, major engagements of World War II—the Anzio Beachhead in western Italy.

It was a brutal campaign, but essential to eventual Allied victory in Europe. The two German corps engaged on the Anzio front were originally destined for Normandy. The success of the Allied landings on the beaches in France in June 1944 were due largely to the tenacity of the Allied forces at Anzio.

But the price of this crucial victory was high. Allied forces suffered nearly 87,000 casualties. In one measure of the courage and sacrifice of those who fought there, 22 Americans were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the most of any single battle of World War II.

John was there from the beginning. He was wounded twice and discharged himself from a field hospital so he could return to the fight with the mates in his own unit. As John says matter-of-factly, "I was one of the very fortunate ones that not only survived Anzio, but the many campaigns to follow. I would never regret the experience, but would never like to experience it again."

John's units were the first to liberate Rome. And then it was off to the Island of Corsica, Southern France, the Alsace Lorraine, the Vosge Mountains, crossing the Rhine into Germany and finally into Salzburg, Austria.

In the course of this extended personal campaign, John Amerspek was among the liberators at the infamous Dauchau concentration camp. In late April 1945, American troops found approximately 32,000 prisoners, crammed 1,600 to each of 20 barracks, which had been designed to house 250 people each. Nearly 32,000 people were exterminated at this camp, which John appropriately called the "Dauchau Horror Camp."

After the war, John returned home to New Jersey, took advantage of the GI bill and eventually began 60 years of official and unofficial professional support of the Army's

Picatinny Arsenal—an invaluable national military resource and the home of American firepower.

An expert in all phases of military program management including the development of new concepts through research and development, cost control, field service, production and budgeting, he rose to senior leadership positions at Picatinny. His goal was always to provide our warfighters with superior firepower from a wide range of weapons for infantry, artillery, mortars, rockets, missiles and aircraft-launched munitions. There is no doubt that his material and management contributions strengthened the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force.

John ended his formal government career in 1981 after 40 years of uniformed and civilian service. He went on to continue his contributions to our great military in various senior roles with the National Defense Industrial Association, the Army ARDEC Advisory Board, among other organizations. His awards are too numerous to list.

It should suffice to say that in 2004, Picatinny's Armament Research Development Engineering Center, ARDEC, named its headquarters' executive conference room after John Amerspek.

Today as senior military and civilian leaders enter the conference room, they pass a simple bronze plaque, bearing his likeness and the phrase "Soldier, Leader, Patriot, 1942–1981."

Anyone who has had the privilege of knowing John Amerspek, understands that he fits those descriptions precisely.

Having just marked Veterans Day and as we prepare for the Thanksgiving season, it is fitting that all Americans give thanks for the service of John Amerspek and all of his fellow soldiers, leaders and patriots—past, present and future.

A TRIBUTE TO MAJOR MORRISON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Major Morrison for his dedicated public service to his country, community, and family.

Reverend Major Morrison, III is son of Marian and Major Morrison, Jr. Reverend Morrison grew up in New York City where he attended Medgar Evers College with a concentration in Liberal Arts. He then transferred to New York City Community College and studied Mechanical Engineering.

In 1979, Reverend Morrison joined the United States Merchant Marines and served until 1998. He was elevated to the post of Watch Engineer. Reverend Morrison served one tour duty in Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1991. After serving his country he started working at the Veterans Medical Center in New York City where he is presently a Systems Boiler Plant Operating Engineer.

Reverend Morrison was called into the ministry at an early age. He was baptized in the Methodist tradition and faith. Reverend Morrison was a choir member; Boy Scout; and served as an usher. Reverend Morrison has preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ in various denominational settings: Baptist; Methodist; and Presbyterian.

Reverend Morrison felt compelled to continue his education and enrolled in Somerset Christian College pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Upon completing his degree at Somerset Christian College, Reverend Morrison will enhance his ministerial capabilities as a biblical interpreter at The New York Theological Seminary in the Master of Divinity Program.

Reverend Morrison has been engaged in many civic associations: he is a former member of Community Board 4; sat on the Public Safety and Human Services Committee; was a chaplain for the New Jersey Eastern Star Home; and serviced the veterans at St. Albans Community Living Center—Unit A5.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Reverend Major Morrison for his excellence in working with Veterans and his service within the church.

NATIONAL RIGHT-TO-CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 822) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State.

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 822, the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act offered by my colleagues, Representatives STEARNS and SHULER. I want to thank them for their leadership on this legislation, which protects the basic second amendment freedoms that are so important to central and southside Virginians.

This bipartisan bill would allow valid state-issued concealed firearm carry permits to be honored by any state or U.S. territory that allows concealed carry, requiring that each state recognize another's carry permits, just as they recognize each other's drivers' licenses.

Currently, 49 of 50 states, including the Commonwealth of Virginia, have laws permitting concealed carry in some fashion. Additionally, over half of those states—25 of those 49—already honor the Virginia concealed carry permit.

This legislation, which has overwhelming support in the House—from representatives from 48 states and both sides of the aisle—would allow central and southside Virginians to utilize their carry permits in all of the 49 states that allow concealed carry.

The constitutional right to keep and bear arms and the ability to defend one's self are fundamental liberties which were protected by our founding fathers. H.R. 822 recognizes that these basic liberties should not be constrained by borders or boundaries, and does so without hindering states' authority to set criteria for their own residents, and without affecting state laws that regulate how concealed firearms are carried.

I am proud to cosponsor this legislation as I continue to work to protect our second amendment freedoms for those in Virginia's 5th District and across the country, and I urge

my colleagues to join with me in supporting passage of this bill.

RECOGNIZING FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR FROM THE COMMUNITY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize eight true American heroes from my community: From Bucks County, William Bond, William Clarke, Russell Hoff, John Masko and James Reilly; from Montgomery County, Donald Lewis and Edgar Waite, Jr.; and from Burlington County, New Jersey, Al Romanowski. I am honored to address you and I want to take this opportunity now to personally thank each one of them for extraordinary service to our Nation.

It is because of men like these that America has the strongest, most professional military in history and the freedoms that we enjoy today. Some may say our military strength is due to our technological and weapon superiority, but, as General George S. Patton said, "Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory."

The men and women who make up our Nation's armed forces are the most dedicated, most patriotic, and most courageous soldiers. They are unwilling to accept anything less than mission success.

During the Second World War, our countrymen joined the fight to eradicate the insidious spread of Nazism and Fascism across Europe and Asia. Over 16 million Americans served during World War II. 416,837 made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation during this war. Your service helped shape the world we see today, a world with America's beacon of freedom still shining proudly.

Tens of thousands of others were captured and subjected to harsh conditions and rough treatment as prisoners of war. Since World War I, over 142,000 Americans have been captured and interned as prisoners of war. There are nearly 30,000 former POWs that are still living—with almost 90 percent of those having been captured during World War II. The brave service members I honor today make up just eight names of those 30,000—but they have had a significant impact within our local communities. William Clarke and James Reilly had been crew members on B-17 bombers that were shot down over enemy territory. The others were with infantry units that were captured by enemy forces.

Our Nation is thankful for their service and I remain committed to providing those who have sacrificed so much with the highest quality care and all the benefits that they deserve. George Washington said, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation." Today, a new generation of brave men and women, inspired by their legacy of service and sacrifice, has answered the call to defend America from the new global threat of terrorism.

I thank Catherine "Cay" Burns for her dedication and leadership as Commander, for

more than 32 years, of the American Ex-Prisoners of War Liberty Bell Chapter. Cay's late husband, Leroy Burns, was a former American prisoner of war who joined the Army shortly after World War II began. He conducted his basic training at what is now Fort Dix. He served in the North Africa campaign and was captured in 1944 when his unit was overrun by German forces in Italy. Cay's tireless work has been instrumental in the creation of this memorial grove honoring the former prisoners of war from our community.

Furthermore, I thank the students of Bucks County Technical High School and their teacher Steve Whitmore. These students played a fundamental role in providing the stone plaques that now honor the service and sacrifice of the eight remaining former prisoners of war from our community. There was a shortage of funding available, but these students volunteered their time to turn the memorial grove into a reality.

Again, one final thanks to William Bond, William Clarke, Russell Hoff, John Masko and James Reilly, Donald Lewis, Edgar Waite, Jr., and Al Romanowski for their service and sacrifice as former American prisoners of war. They are true protectors of liberty in this world and their dedication to a grateful Nation will never be forgotten.

145TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE ASPCA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 145th anniversary of the founding of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), which has been headquartered for the last 60 years on the East Side of Manhattan in my congressional district. Founded by Henry Bergh in 1866, the ASPCA provides effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals in New York City and throughout the United States.

The ASPCA was the first humane society in North America. Throughout its 145-year history, the ASPCA has operated under the belief that animals are entitled to be treated kindly and respectfully by humans and to be protected by the law. Last year, thousands of pets were adopted from its Onyx and Breezy Shefts Adoption Center and over 37,000 free or low-cost spay and neuter surgeries were provided to needy pet parents across the five boroughs. The ASPCA's Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital has been providing affordable, quality veterinary care in the New York metropolitan area since 1912.

Although the ASPCA was founded to help protect working horses and other animals in New York City, its services and outreach now stretch to animals and communities throughout the United States. From shelter and rescue grants, to veterinarian care and training, to cruelty response and humane law enforcement, the ASPCA is a national leader in animal cruelty prevention. In 2010, its Animal Poison Control Center handled over 167,000 cases. The ASPCA's disaster response team has cared for animals during emergencies nationwide, including after animal fighting raids, and recently in Joplin, Missouri, and in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene.